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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 728, FEBRUARY 26, 1 P.M.

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SENT BONN 652 DEPARTMENT-728 REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 168, USAREUR
214. USAREUR PLEASE PASS POLAD.

USAREUR PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE TIME OF RECEIPT.

PARIS PASS CINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST

REFERENCE: 1. DEPTTEL 1888 TO BONN, 538 TO BERLIN
2. OURTEL 632 TO BONN, 704 TO DEPARTMENT
3. EMBTEL 613 TO BERLIN, 1837 TO DEPARTMENT

L I M I T D I S T R I B U T I O N

USCOB PLANNING REINTRODUCTION AUTOBAHN MILITARY POLICE PATROLS
ON GRADUATED BASIS AS FOLLOWS:

(1) AFTER FEB 24 ALL CONVOYS WILL BE ESCORTED BY MP VEHICLES FROM
U.S. CHECKPOINT TO ADJACENT SOVIET CHECKPOINT WHEN ENTERING
AUTOBAHN AND MPS WILL WAIT THERE UNTIL CONVOY CLEARED;
EXITING CONVOYS WILL BE MET AND SIMILARLY ESCORTED BETWEEN
ADJACENT CHECKPOINTS.

(2) AFTER MARCH 1 MILITARY POLICE CARS WILL ESCORT SELECTED
CONVOYS THROUGHOUT THEIR TRANSIT OF AUTOBAHN. FOR INITIAL
TRIAL IT IS PLANNED TO SEND SINGLE TANK LOADED ON TRANSPORTER
FROM BERLIN TO HELMSTEDT WITH MP PATROL CARS PRECEDING AND
FOLLOWING AFTER TANK UNIT. SINCE UNIT CAN MOVE AT SPEED NOT
EXCEEDING 18 MPH ESCORTS CAN BE JUSTIFIED ON BASIS THEY ARE
NECESSARY FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY.

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(3) AT DATE SUBSEQUENT TO MARCH 1 AND PENDING RECEIPT SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM CINCUSAREUR IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE MP VEHICLES REGULARLY TRAVERSE AUTOBAHN. AS PLAN NOW ENVISAGED, RADIO EQUIPPED REGULATION O.D. COLORED MP PATROL VEHICLES WOULD DEPART FROM BERLIN AND HELMSTEDT AT UNSCHEDULED TIMES COVERING 110-MILE AUTOBAHN STRETCH WITHIN 2 1/2 TO 5-HOUR TIME LIMIT NOW IMPOSED. THESE PATROLS WOULD BE DOCUMENTED WITH REGULAR MOVEMENT ORDERS BUT PRESUMABLY COULD HALT FOR BRIEF PERIODS WHILE ON AUTOBAHN AND IF NECESSARY RENDER ASSISTANCE TO ANY DISABLED ALLIED VEHICLES. WITHIN FIVE-HOUR TIME LIMIT, HOWEVER, PATROLS WOULD CHECK THROUGH OPPOSITE SOVIET CHECKPOINT FROM POINT OF ORIGIN. INTENDED ALSO THAT MILITARY POLICE IN PATROL CARS WOULD CARRY SIDE ARMS WHICH THEY HAVE NOT DONE HERETOFORE.

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